

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
SCOPING FOR DELEGATION OF NEARSHORE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with California Department of Fish and Game staff to discuss current plans for delegation of nearshore management authority.

As it has on several previous occasions, the GAP raised serious concerns about delegation of authority as has been proposed in the past. These concerns include impacts on species (and fisheries for those species) present both within and outside of state waters; the lack of adequate financial and personnel resources to conduct the level of assessment and management needed, especially for species that might be declared overfished; the confusion that would result from having two different management systems apply to a single species of fish; how the state management process would interact with the state's marine protected area process; and how public participation and allocation decisions would be handled.

In short, the GAP recommends that no further effort be expended on delegation of nearshore management authority to California until these concerns have been met. The GAP notes that it would have the same questions if delegation of authority were sought by other states.

PFMC
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